



Along the Mail Route

The Christmas Breaking-Up Party for the children at Cowra Station was held on December 16th at the New Recreational Hall, 65 children participating.

The hall was suitably decorated by the Manager and a few helpers, whilst the Xmas tree was transformed into a fairyland tree (just like the ones we see on Xmas cards) by the Matron and her small band of Station women helpers.

As the tree held, besides glittering decorations, a toy for every child present, eager faces were pressed against the hall windows whilst all the preparations were being attended to.

When the great moment eventually arrived, Santa Claus (Mr. C. Keirs, a well-known Cowra citizen) stepped from a car, making his way through the crowd of excited children towards that ever-fascinating tree. After every child had received his or her present, lollies, cakes, oranges and numerous cups of cordial were consumed.

Roy Carroll's guitar and gum-leaf band provided the music for an informal dance which completed a very happy function.



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, seem to be sharing a joke.

BIG FLOOD HITS KINCHELA

AN ANXIOUS NIGHT

Saturday night, 20th February, was one of great anxiety at Kinchela Home when it felt the full force of the cyclone which, earlier in the week, had done so much damage in Queensland. Fortunately, the position was not so bad as at Lismore, Murwillumbah, Casino and further up the North Coast, but still a lot of damage was done. All the crops were flattened to the ground, and winter feed, which had been stored up is gone. Fortunately, no stock were lost.

There was no electric power at the Home, and all Saturday night, the staff and the boys worked like trojans with the light of hurricane lamps, to lift the stores and equipment into safe positions above the flood waters.

With an 85 mile-per-hour cyclone blowing and torrential rain falling, the younger children in the Home were evacuated at 9 o'clock Sunday morning, 21st. Mr. White, with other male members of the staff and three senior boys, stayed until 5 o'clock, and when they did get away, the road was 2 ft. 6 in. under water. What a day it was!

Thanks to the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club, the Club Hall was made available as shelter for the boys, and when the flood waters had subsided, they were able to return to the Home on Monday afternoon.

Whilst the experience was most unpleasant at the time, looking back it is regarded as just another adventure, and when this is being read, the Home will be back to normal again.